



AL-11-000-1501

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

FEB 24 2011

Mr.

Dear Mr.

Thank you for your electronic correspondence of January 25, 2011, to Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, which was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the air quality around the Lafarge Texas Quarry (Quarry) in Cockeysville, Maryland. Specifically, you questioned whether EPA or another regulatory agency monitored the air quality surrounding the Quarry. EPA's review of the Quarry identified that there are several independently owned businesses collocated at this address.

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) official, Mr. Frank Courtright, Air Quality Program Manager identified a company known as Imerys as the facility most likely responsible for the white colored particulate matter noted in your correspondence. Imerys manufactures calcium carbonate which is commonly known as chalk. MDE has inspected this facility four times in the last eight months and has issued three Notices of Violation (NOV). The NOV issued on June 25 and July 1, 2010 was for fugitive emissions. On each occasion, the company took immediate corrective action by replacing broken bags in the control equipment.

MDE again inspected Imerys on February 2, 2011 and issued a NOV for fugitive emissions. The inspector noticed dust on the property and found that it was the result of a broken fan in a silo. Imerys is in the process of resolving this issue. The silo has been taken out of service until the repair is made. MDE will continue to oversee operations at this facility to ensure compliance with applicable air quality requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Garvin".

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski

Mr. Frank Courtright
Maryland Department of the Environment



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